

SITUATION REPORT NO. 1
INCIDENT NO. 2006-016
DATE: March 30, 2006 Time: 7:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Spring Flooding** – The rapid snowmelt of heavy winter snow accumulations compounded by spring rains and sudden warm temperatures is causing spring flooding along the Red River Valley.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No deaths or injuries have been reported.
3. **DAMAGES:** The National Weather Service office at Grand Forks (NWS) is forecasting rain to spread over the region this afternoon and tonight with rainfall amounts of up to one inch along and south of Fargo. Isolated thunderstorms will result in localized heavier amounts especially from the southern Red River Basin into west central Minnesota. With the snow melting cycle well underway, coupled with anticipated rainfall amounts during the next 24 hours, an increase in overland flooding, due to oversaturated grounds, and rising rivers especially across the southern Red River Valley and associated tributaries is expected.

Light rain, possibly mixed with wet snow, will linger into March 31 mainly from the Red River Valley west. Temperatures through the period should remain well above freezing during the day further increasing the snow melt cycle across the area. The north Red River Valley basin is in a slower melt process and will likely see significant runoff flows beginning a week or more down the road.

Minor Flooding is occurring in Mapleton and Fargo.

Moderate flooding is occurring in Abercrombie and Wahpeton.

Location	Flood Stage	Forecasted Crest Level and Date	River Level	Date/Time
Red River at Wahpeton	10 feet	16.3 feet/Apr 1	12.82 feet	Mar 30/ 4:00 p.m.
Wild Rice at Abercrombie	10 feet	24.6 feet/Apr 2	15.8 feet	Mar 30/ 3:30 p.m.
Sheyenne River at Kindred	16 feet	18.1 feet/Apr 2	10.76 feet	Mar 30/ 4:00 p.m.
Red River at Fargo	18 feet	36.3 feet/Apr 4	20.68 feet	Mar 30/ 4:00 p.m.
Maple River at Mapleton	905 feet	907.6 feet/Apr 4	901.61 feet	Mar 30/ 2:30 p.m.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Local agencies responding to the emergency include law enforcement, city and county administration offices, city, county and township public works departments, communications centers, emergency management offices, private contractors and other emergency services; as needed.

STATE: The Governor's office, State Water Commission (SWC), North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP), North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT), North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH), North Dakota Department of Human Services (NDDHS), North Dakota National Guard (NDNG), North Dakota Air National Guard (NDANG), and the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDes) are monitoring the situation.

NDNG is preparing equipment and volunteer lists.

FEDERAL: NWS is monitoring weather activity and flood stages.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No volunteer action reported at this time.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor John Hoeven today issued a flood emergency declaration for impacts resulting from the rapid snowmelt and rainfall events that continue to cause riverine and overland flooding along the Red River of the North and its tributaries.

Governor Hoeven has also requested assistance from the St. Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Emergency Operations Program of Public Law 84-99. The request calls for the construction of an earthen dike in Fargo, with flood preparedness efforts in the city of Wahpeton. Additionally, the Governor called for assistance in evaluating emergency response measures as floodwaters progress north through the basin.

The Governor participated in an aerial surveillance of the Red River Valley from Canada to South Dakota and met with officials from the communities of Grand

Forks, Fargo and Wahpeton, along the Red River Valley to discuss this spring's flood potential and preparedness measures.

Based on the NWS flood projection forecast, the North Dakota Insurance Commissioner issued a news release on March 17 informing North Dakota residents to check their coverage of flood insurance and informing them of a 30-day waiting period before a flood insurance policy becomes effective. Residents were directed to the North Dakota Insurance Department at (800) 247-0560 and the "Consumer" section of the Insurance Commission web site at www.state.nd.us/ndins/consumer/ for more information.

National Weather Service (NWS)

The NWS forecast calls for major flooding along the Red River at Wahpeton and Fargo and along the Wild Rice River at Abercrombie. An analysis of the forecast indicates flood conditions along the Red River system are being exacerbated by warm temperatures and recent rainfall and thunderstorms. These conditions have caused rapid snowmelt and runoff over saturated ground, producing accelerated rises into the river network near Wahpeton.

Currently, moderate flooding is occurring along the Red River at Wahpeton with floodwaters expected to rise to 16.3 feet on Saturday, April 1; flood stage is 10 feet. Rainfall of up to one inch, with embedded thunderstorms, is expected to compound flood conditions this evening and tomorrow. The storm could affect local responders' ability to place clay in position. Areas that feed into the Bois de Sioux River, south of Wahpeton, are still affected with snow pack. Rain this evening could cause those areas to open quickly.

The forecast indicates rain and thunderstorms could move up to the Fargo area later this evening. The Red River at Fargo is currently 2.68 feet above its 18-foot flood stage. The river is expected to rise to moderate stage of 27.6 feet by midday April 1, above its major flood stage of 30 feet by Sunday, April 2, and continue rising to 36 to 37 feet by Tuesday, April 4.

The same rainfall pattern will affect much of the Red River Basin northward with the possibility of river cresting in Grand Forks five to seven days later. Additionally, the NWS issued an area flood warning for Cass and Richland counties and an area flood watch for Traill, Steele and Grand Forks counties since overland flooding may occur as a result of rainfall.

The NWS issued a Flood Statement on March 30 for the Red River. Minor flooding was occurring and major flooding is expected with increased runoff from recent rains and warm temperatures which have caused the rivers to rise rapidly.

A Flood Warning has been issued for urban areas and small streams in Cass and Richland counties as well as for the Wild Rice River at Abercrombie, Sheyenne River at Kindred, Maple River at Enderlin and the Red River at Wahpeton and Fargo.

On March 29, the NWS issued a Flood Warning for the Red River at Wahpeton, Abercrombie and Fargo. This warning will remain in effect until the location has dropped below flood stage. The return to non-flood conditions is beyond the forecast period and currently unknown.

Cass County

The Emergency Manager for the City of Fargo reported on March 30, the City of Fargo declared a Flood Emergency. The Emergency Operations Center has been activated. Flood meetings will be conducted daily at 9:00 a.m. A press conference is scheduled for Monday at 9:30 a.m.

ND State Highway 10 at Casselton by the railroad crossing is closed due to flooding, no detour has been provided. 'Road Closed' signs have been placed and the road is barricaded.

Areas expected to flood, are primarily City of Fargo properties potentially affecting Fargo City Hall or Fargo Parks and Recreation land. The city has 200,000 sand bags that are available for those residents in the areas susceptible to flooding. Residents have been advised to call the Fargo City Engineer (701) 241-1545 if they need sandbags.

First Link, in the city of Fargo, has been alerted for possible staffing of a volunteer center with assistance from Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers; volunteers are not activated at this time. The City of Fargo will also set up a hotline for residential assistance needs.

Approximately 10-12 houses may be impacted if flood waters reach the 36 foot mark. The Fargo City Engineer office is contacting the impacted residents and working with them to protect their homes. Elm Street was closed due to flood waters.

Richland County

The Sheyenne River at Kindred is at 10.76 feet with flood stage at 16.0 feet. The river is rising rapidly and is expected to crest at 18.1 feet by April 2.

On March 30, NDDOT informed the SOC that ND State Highway 18 was built up after earlier concerns indicated it may go under water.

The Emergency Manager reported on March 30 the following roads are closed in Richland County:

- County Road 22 between section 17 and 20, east of Highway 127 in Fairmount Township
- County Road 22 between sections 21 and 28, west of I-29 in Greendale Township
- County Road 3 south of Highway 11 between Sections 35 and 36 in Moran Township.
- County Road 1, 1.5 miles north of Colfax between Sections 19 and 20 in Colfax West Township.

- Two low road crossings on Antelope Creek
- 124-24.2 and 124-24.1, Section 31 in Dwight Township and Section 36 in Ibsen Township.

The following bridges are closed in Richland County:

- Bridge 119-24.1, between Section 31 in Ibsen Township and Section 6 of Mooreton Township.
- Bridge 118-23, between Section 25 in Antelope Township and Section 30 in Ibsen Township.
- Bridge 124-15.1, between 12 and 13 in Abercrombie Township.
- Bridge 124-24, between Section 36 in Ibsen Township and Section 2 in Mooreton Township.
- Bridge 128-27, Center Township between Sections 15 and 22.
- Bridge 125-16, Abercrombie Township between Sections 19 and 30.
- Bridge 124-12.2, Eagle Township South between Sections 36 and 31.
- Bridge 122-8.2, Colfax Township between Sections 3 and 10.
- Bridge 124-12, between Section 36 in Eagle Township and Section 1 in Abercrombie Township.
- Bridge 128-21, between Sections 14 and 15 in Dwight Township.
- Bridge 127-20, between Sections 9 and 10 in Dwight Township.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: As indicated.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No outside help on scene.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Homeland Security's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/des>.

Greg Wilz, Director
N.D. Division of Homeland Security